172 and socket 170. The plate 182 is then fastened with screws (such as the screw 188) to the back of the display 152. A flat 190 formed at the top of the socket 170 seats against a corresponding flat 192 in the shell 184 to prevent rotation of the socket 170 relative to the display 152. The shaft 174 is terminated with a plug 194 with a tapering square transverse cross-section and with a central threaded hole 196. As apparent in FIG. 19, the arm 162 has a connector, specifically, a socket 198 which conforms in shape to and interlocks with the plug 194 to support the display 152 and to prevent rotation of the display 152. The socket 198 is arranged on the arm 162 to receive the plug 194 in two distinct relative angular orientations spaced by 90 degrees, one in which the lengthwise axis of the display 152 is aligned with the length of the arm 162 (as in FIG. 18 where the arm 162 is horizontal) and another in which the lengthwise axis is perpendicular to the length of the arm 162 (as in FIG. 17 where the arm 162 is vertical). A bolt 200 (shown in FIG. 19) inserts through the socket 198 into the plug 194 to prevent separation.

The other display 154 is mounted to the arm 162 in a manner permitting adjustment of the spacing between the displays 152, 154. The connector 166 associated with the other display 154 is identical to the connector 164. The arm 162 has a pair of sockets 202, 204 identical to the socket 198 but mounted in an opposing end portion of the arm 162. The two sockets 202, 204 are axially spaced along the arm 162, one socket 204 located substantially at one end of the arm 162 and the other socket 202, inset from that end. Both sockets 202, 204 are shaped to interlock with the connector 166 to prevent relative rotation and to permit the lengthwise axis of the display 154 to be aligned with or oriented perpendicular to the length of the arm 162 according to whether the arm 162 is horizontally or vertically oriented.

The connectors used to join the arm 162 to the upright 158 are apparent in FIG. 19. The upright 158 has a socket 206 with a tapered square chamber aligned with a circular cylindrical chamber. The arm 162 carries a plug 208 which has a tapered square section and a circular cylindrical section, conforming to the socket 206. The socket 206 receives the plug 208 in two distinct relative angular orientations spaced by 90 degrees, which correspond to vertical and horizontal orientations of the arm 162. A bolt 210 inserts through a clearance hole (not illustrated) in the rear of the socket 206 and threads into the plug 208 to prevent relative axial separation of the socket 206 and plug 208.

How the display system 150 is used will be largely apparent from the foregoing description of its components. If the displays 152, 154 are to be horizontally registered (as in FIG. 18), the arm 162 is mounted to the upright 158 in a horizontal position, and the displays 152, 154 are mounted to the arm 162 with their lengthwise axes aligned with the length of the arm 162. The display 152 is mounted to the socket 204 at the end of the arm 162 to increase the spacing between the displays, accommodating their horizontal elongation. If the displays 152, 154 are to be vertically registered (as in FIG. 17), the arm 162 is mounted to the upright 158 in a vertical position, and the displays 152, 154 are mounted to the arm 162 with their lengthwise axes perpendicular to the length of the arm 162. The spacing between the displays 152, 154 is reduced by mounting the display 152 is mounted to the socket 202 inset from the end of the arm 162.

The display 152 may be mounted appropriate connection means that permit the display 152 for sliding between various axially spaced-apart positions along the arm 162. However, twin sockets 202, 204 are simple, adequate and comparatively inexpensive. Another alternative is to provide an arm assembly comprising two interchangeable arms of different length. Each arm may carry a pair of sockets (substantially identical to the socket 198) for mounting of the displays 152, 154 at opposing ends of the arm. Each arm may be fitted with a connector comparable to the plug 208 for mounting to the upright 158. The short armer may be mounted to the upright 158 in a vertical position for vertical registration of the displays 152, 154, and the longer arm may be mounted to the upright 158 in a horizontal orientation for mounting for horizontal registration of the displays 152, 154.

It will be appreciated that particular embodiments of the invention have been described and that modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention or necessarily departing from the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A display system comprising:

a base;

a pair of electronic displays, each of the displays having an operative angular orientation relative to horizontal;

positioning means for positioning the displays selectively in vertically registered relationship and in horizontally registered relationship, the positioning means comprising:

(a) an arm assembly supporting the displays;

(b) support means for supporting the arm assembly from the base selectively in a first orientation relative to the base in which the displays are in their vertically registered relationship and in a second orientation in which the displays are in their horizontally registered relationship; and,

(c) mounting means for mounting the displays to the arm assembly, the mounting means comprising means for adjusting the angular orientation of each of the displays relative to the arm assembly thereby to orient each of the displays in its operative angular orientation when the arm assembly is in either one of its first and second orientations.

2. The display system of claim 1 in which:

the support means support the arm assembly for rotation about a generally horizontal axis; and,

the mounting means mount each of the displays to the arm assembly for relative rotation about a rotational axis substantially parallel to the generally horizontal axis.

3. The display system of claim 2 in which:

the support means comprise means for releasably locking the arm assembly to the base in its first and second orientations; and,

the mounting means comprise means permitting rotation of each of the electronic displays only between a pair of extreme angular positions relative to the arm assembly, each of the angular positions corresponding to a different one of the first and second orientations of the arm assembly such that the display is oriented in its operative angular orientation whenever the arm assembly is locked to the base in either of the first and second positions and the display is rotated to its corresponding angular position.

4. The display system of claim 3 in which the mounting means comprise:

a shaft fixed to one of the displays and aligned with the rotational axis of the one display;

means fixed to the arm assembly and supporting the shaft for rotation about the rotational axis of the one display; and,